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News Items from the School of Education of the University of Chicago

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DINNER

The University of Chicago Dinner, which is held annually during the week of the Meeting of the Department of Superintendence, will be held Wednesday evening, March 1, at the Hamilton Club, 20 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. Alumni, former students, and friends of the University are most cordially invited. Guests will assemble at six o'clock in the Lounge Room on the third floor. Dinner will be served promptly at six-thirty. The cost is \$2.00 per plate.

INSTRUCTION IN CIVICS

Miss Maude B. Davis, A.M., Denton, Texas, has recently made an intensive study of the topics which should be included in a course in civics. The method followed in this investigation was an analysis of the content of current periodicals. In the pursuit of her investigation, the following assumptions have been critically examined: (1) the assumption that current literature indicates civic tendencies and that by an analysis of current literature the content to be included in civics may be determined; (2) the assumption that every individual may be considered in three situations: the citizen in relation to his government; the worker in relation to his work; the citizen in relation to some organized group of society, i.e., family, church, school, etc.; (3) the assumption that in these three situations there is an interplay of activities.

The analysis has indicated that there are many types of material and many phases of the three distinct situations.

The wide range of the several topics indicates that a course in civics should include a study of many different situations. In any content there will be a rather distinct "core" of topics in which problems concerning government shall have first emphasis; those

of economics, second emphasis; and those of sociology, third emphasis. The method of approach and the development of the topic suggest an overlapping of these different phases.

Current literature not only suggests topics of dominant interest to be included in instruction in civics, but also furnishes a source for text materials to be used in the study of social problems.

FINANCES OF WYOMING HIGH SCHOOLS

A study of the finances of the high schools in Wyoming by S. R. Bumann, A.M., Buffalo, Wyoming, was divided into four parts: (1) schools accredited by the State Board of Education; (2) laws relating to taxation and income for school purposes, (3) financial reports of schools, and (4) the schools accredited by the North Central Association. The sources of information were the records in the state superintendent's office regarding the accrediting of high schools by the state department, the reports of the North Central Association inspector on file with Dean Maxwell of the University of Wyoming, the school laws of the state, and financial reports of the various high schools furnished by superintendents. A comparative study for the years 1917, 1918, and 1919 was made of the state reports and for the years 1918 and 1919 of the reports of the North Central Association. The records earlier than the years indicated were incomplete and could not be utilized.

The trend in expenditure for teachers' salaries and equipment in the various departments of the high school is decidedly upward. The expectation that the North Central schools spend more money for teachers' salaries is verified by this study. Until 1921, when the law was changed, the maximum tax for county high schools and for poor and lunatic purposes was limited in each case to two mills on the assessed valuation. Inasmuch as most of the county high schools are supported by only a part of the school districts of the state, it was impossible to raise as much money for high-school education as could be raised for the care of the poor and the insane.